

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2006-65-C - ORDER NO. 2006-288
MAY 17, 2006

IN RE: Petition of Donald A. Quick on Behalf of the)	ORDER APPOINTING
Residents in Center Creek Community)	HEARING OFFICER
Requesting to Change or Add Additional Local)	AND DENYING
Telephone Providers in Ridgeway, South)	MOTION TO DISMISS
Carolina)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion of Verizon South Inc. (Verizon or the Company) to dismiss the Petition for Change in Telephone Provider submitted by Donald Quick and 18 other residents of the Center Creek Community (collectively, the Petitioners) on the grounds that the relief requested is both unnecessary and outside the authority of the Commission.

The Petitioners live in the Center Creek Community, which is located within the Winnsboro exchange and borders the territory of two other incumbent local exchange companies, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Ridgeway Telephone Company. Petitioners state that they are unhappy with Verizon's service, both with respect to service quality and the range of services offered, and request that this Commission change their local telecommunications provider. Verizon asserts that the Commission has no authority to grant the relief requested.

We would note that the Petitioners assert several complaints against Verizon, some of which may fall under the jurisdiction of this Commission, and some of which

may not. We believe that further investigation into these matters should be undertaken by a Hearing Officer, and, therefore, we appoint Joseph M. Melchers as Hearing Officer, who shall examine these matters, and make recommendations to this Commission at a later date as to the appropriate disposition of the issues in this case.

Accordingly, because of the foregoing conclusion, we deny the Motion to Dismiss the Petition, and we hold the Petition in abeyance until such time as the Hearing Officer reports back to this Commission.

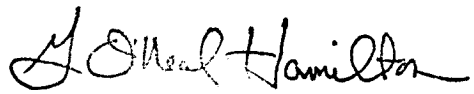
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice-Chairman

(SEAL)